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MARCH 24, 2023 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 7

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49th Annual Dance for Mother Earth
Powwow is March 25-26. **Page 4**

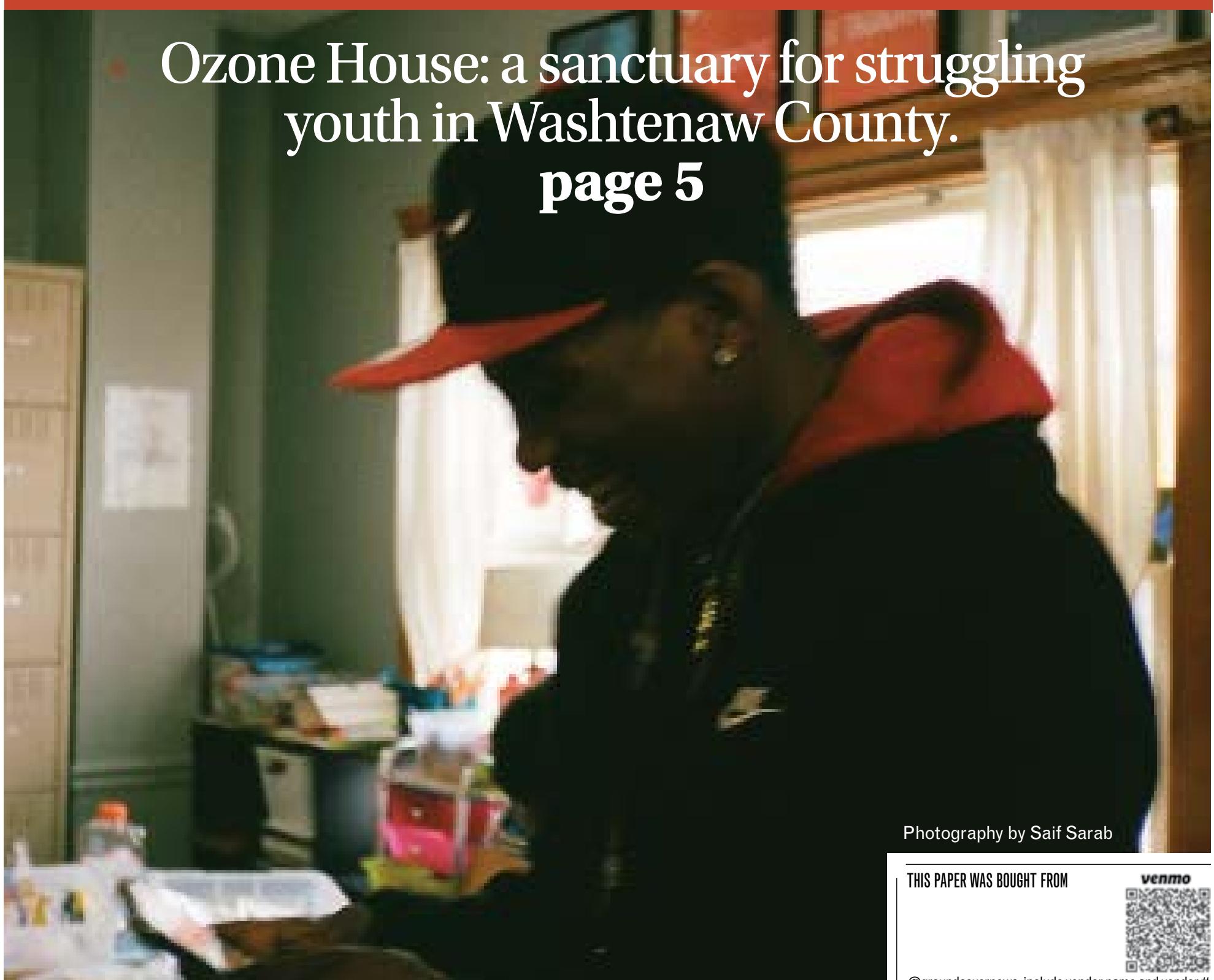


MEET YOUR
VENDOR:
LARZELL
WASHINGTON
PAGE 3

GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

Ozone House: a sanctuary for struggling
youth in Washtenaw County.
page 5



Photography by Saif Sarab

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

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WHAT HAPPENED to the MIDDLE CLASS?

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Content CORRECTION

In last issue's article titled "The Ann Arbor rental market is a pretty scary place," it was stated that landlords can't require you to resign a lease until 150 days have passed of a lease. Instead it should have read, "In 2021, City Council amended the Early Leasing Ordinance so that landlords cannot require tenants to sign leases before 150 days remain on the lease." For a year-long lease, this is about 7 months into the leasing period. If you have any questions, please email renterscommission@a2gov.org

GROUNDCOVER NEWS

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

Size	Black/White	Color	Dimensions (W x H in inches)
1/8	\$110.00	\$150.00	5 X 3 or 2.5 X 6.5
1/6	\$145.00	\$200.00	5 X 4
1/4	\$200.00	\$265.00	5 X 6.25
1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13

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HEAR ME OUT!

GROUNDCOVER NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

A GROUNDCOVER NEWS COMMUNITY OPEN MIC

MARCH 25TH, 6-8PM
ARGUS FARM STOP, LIBERTY CAFE

Join the Groundcover News community for another open mic centering on community perspectives on social injustices!

A WORKSHOP ON BUILDING NARRATIVE POWER

MARCH 24TH, 2-4:30PM
ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY
DOWNTOWN BRANCH - FREESPACE

- Join journalist Lauren Slager and Groundcover News for an op-ed writing workshop at the Ann Arbor District Library.
- Link lived experience with a call to action to inspire change in your community!
- Participants will be invited to speak at the following open mic and publish in Groundcover News.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY AND A VOICE FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHILE TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

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MEET YOUR VENDOR



Larzell Washington,
vendor No. 128

In one sentence, who are you?
I try to be an understanding person.

Where do you usually sell Groundcover News? Everywhere, but more recently, Bobcat Bonnie's on Michigan Ave.

What is your favorite thing to do in Ypsilanti? Talk to people.

Why did you start selling Groundcover?

I believe it was just my niche in life. Life recruited me.

What words do you live by?
Forgive while you are still here. Lack of forgiveness is a psychological disorder.

What are you most likely to be famous for? Communicating well with people. Or bank robbery ... just joking!

What's the best way to start the day? Saying "good morning."

What is a small thing that makes your day better? A nice, cold Faygo. Orange flavor.

What would be the first thing you did if you won the lottery? Shop for joy!

If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? A nice chef's salad with ranch and thousand island dressing.

What change would you like to see in Washtenaw County? I would like to see Washtenaw County recognize mental health more. That it is a real situation.

What the street took



MARKONA LOVE
Groundcover vendor No.
590

knows how you're looking at them but fights on. I have seen this fight clearly since I was young, all over the world.

There is an endless list of tragic ways in which some of our hearts were taken from us.

How do "Homers" (the housed unaware) cope and grieve? Attend funerals, Shivas, consoling pot-lucks at home, vacations from work and more. Ask Homers how hard it was to cope ... then ask how they would have done it if they have to shove all that pain deep down, hold their head up and drive on into the wind — work it to get it (food, heat, sleep, transportation, safety) or just give up and die!

The homeless can and do come from various economic stations. Intelligence, education, or original status does not make you impervious to a "slip and fall" to the street.

Some of our Ann Arbor homeless know of this, and several of Us have experienced this firsthand — some more than others, usually due to prejudice.

This just beats you down, and some politicians are counting on that. It's all figured into the design of the bills they write. This practice includes all Washington politicians, from one end of the spectrum to the other, even the ones that throw Us an occasional crumb. This is something Homers aren't told but many of Us experience directly. And, in the same way they suppress minority rights, they then turn Us against each other to divide and conquer. Remember who is at the keyboard that are the switches of your destiny — life! Oh! Don't forget social media — they've mastered it to their own, eventual self-destruction. They'll try to shove you so far into the corner that you start dropping diamonds.

This is something I experienced, and am still experiencing. If we (Us) try to help or inform others, Uncle Sam comes down on Us with no mercy, with "Maxwell's Silver Linings".

Hope is the edge of the cliff. To all

So many people who have not had this experience do not realize they are just one step away from 'one step beyond.'

of you on the streets, from the street, or on the way to the street — hold on, don't let go — don't give up that hope, that's yours. Keep it safe and nourished. Don't let it go.

Believe it or not there are other human beings who will love and care about you but, it might take awhile for someone to see you for who you truly are, a special person that needs some help and understanding — empathy, love. Everyone of us is a beautiful human being who just needs some level of help — getting it right. It's a comfortable release for the ignorant to quickly judge instead of caring with any empathy. Yes, it's an effort. Anything worthwhile is, like an investment. Do not give up hope, ever!

After putting some real time in on the street you start to lose faith in this system; it wears you down with poorly placed protocols, incompetence and just plain inaction ... sometimes purposeful. We (Us) know of this, and several of Us have experienced this firsthand — some more than others, usually due to prejudice.

Some of our Ann Arbor homeless people have several jobs and are still unable to obtain permanent housing. Many of Us also volunteer, support other homeless people in need and contribute actively to our community. Many homeless people are cognizant and ultra-aware of politics in order to just navigate a dysfunctional system. We (Us) have to be more informed and aware than others in order to be consistently facilitating a far more complex way of survival.

Homers base their assumptions on a preconceived bias, based solely on appearance.

These misconceptions support the system, pigeonholing us into a convenient place on their game board. Then we become pliable to the machine merely to become fuel for their fodder. You are now whatever they want you to be — your life becomes a loose kite with them carelessly holding the string.

You hope for grace, but that's spread far and thin these days. So you reach for a belief/faith or maybe some luck from the cosmos. In the end it relies on HOPE.

Hope is the edge of the cliff. To all

POWWOW

MARCH 24, 2023

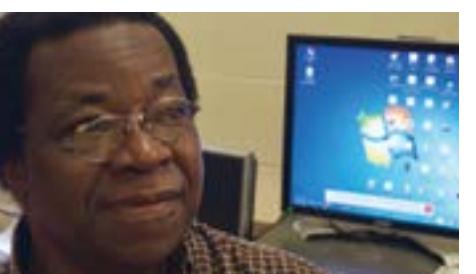


Drum circle from the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow in 2018. Images obtained from the U-M Powwow website.

49th Annual Dance for Mother Earth Powwow is March 25-26, 2023

When you know who you are; when your mission is clear and you burn with the inner fire of unbreakable will; no cold can touch your heart; no deluge can dampen your purpose. You know that you are alive!

— Chief Seattle, Duwamish (1780-1866)



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

The 49th Annual Dance for Mother Earth Powwow, co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives and the U-M Native American Student Association, will be held on March 25-26 at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor. The powwow is a celebration of American Indian culture. The annual event is one of the largest student-run powwows in the country, bringing together over 1,000 Native American singers, dancers and artists from across North America.

"People from diverse indigenous nations gather for the purpose of dancing, singing and honoring the traditions of their ancestors," according to ethnomusicologist Tara Browner. The ritual likely originated from one of the Algonquian nations known as the Northeast Indians. In the past, individual tribes would gather and celebrate by themselves. Today, powwow is intertribal and inclusive.

The contemporary powwow is a fusion of different tribal traditions. "The songs and dances performed at 21st-century powwows derive primarily from those practiced by the warrior societies of the Plains Indians," Browner said, "with the greatest influences coming from the Heluska

Land gift to U-M
The University of Michigan is tied to

Native Americans in its origin, history, growth and success. The annual powwow event is in line with U-M's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion mission, which aims to "work to create a university community that reflects the vast, rich heterogeneity of the state and the broader society."

On Sept. 29, 1817, the Treaty of Fort Meigs was signed between Michigan's territorial governor, Lewis Cass, and the native tribes of Ojibwe (Chippewa), Odawa (Ottawa), and Bodewadimi (Potawatomi). These tribes resided in Michigan's Lower Peninsula at the time of Fort Meigs' Treaty.

A remarkable unraveling in the treaty of 1817 is summarized by the following statement: "In the treaty process, Gov. Cass persuaded the Natives to cede 3,840 acres of land, half

of which was earmarked for St. Anne's Church, and half for a college of Detroit" in which the natives would be eligible to enroll."

After the treaty was finalized, Judge Augustus Woodward, the Rev. Gabriel Richard and the Rev. John Monteith drafted legislation that founded the University of Michigan in Detroit under the name Catholepistemiad on Aug. 26, 1817.

The university moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor in 1837. The land gift to U-M by the tribes was sold and the income investment became the foundation of U-M's endowment.

Groundcover News will be tabling at this year's powwow! Come by to experience and embrace Native American culture in Southeast Michigan through song, dance, cuisine and more!



MARCH 24, 2023

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



Ozone House: a sanctuary for struggling youth in Washtenaw

Ozone House is a non-profit organization based in Ann Arbor that opened its doors in 1969 due to the growing number of runaway youth migrating to Washtenaw County. Today, they are the only agency in Washtenaw County that provides free, confidential, and voluntary shelter and support services to runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth ages 10 to 20 and their families.

The mission of Ozone House is to "[help] young people lead safe, responsible, and healthy lives through intensive intervention and prevention services."

The organization consistently provides non-judgmental support and safety for youth in crisis through various programs including emergency services, counseling, drop-in hours, housing, job training and transportation.

Transitional Living, called Miller House, is open to 18-to-22-year-olds who do not have a safe or stable home. Residents can stay for up to 18 months, giving them time to get back on their feet. Residents must go to school or have a job and participate in case management, life skills training, counseling and paying "rent" that goes into a savings account for later use. Miller House sets their residents up for success by teaching them the skills they need to regain stability in their lives.

Similarly, Ozone hosts meals and drop-in hours throughout the week, inviting 13 to 20-year-olds the opportunity to relax in a controlled space, eat a hot meal, take a shower or even just talk to a peer in a safe environment.

Supported Opportunities for Living on Your Own, or SOLO, offers supportive housing for youth 18 to 21 with disabilities.

Job and leadership training is another resource that Ozone House offers to struggling youth in the community in the form of WorkZone. WorkZone is an employment training and paid internship program that

prepares homeless or at-risk youth for their first job. Tim, an 18-year-old who participated in this program, "put his customer service skills to use at McDonald's, where he has worked for several years." The program helps with resume building, interview skills, and ultimately concludes with a 100-hour paid internship. This program has helped numerous young adults find stability in a career and build a new life for themselves.

Ozone House also provides transportation for those in need, partnering with the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, or The Ride. This is a not-for-profit local organization that helps youth get a ride to their school if their living situation is unstable or provide reduced fare cards so they can get to school and work. Affordable or free transportation is extremely important for those seeking help from Ozone House.

Since moving to their new location at 1600 N. Huron River Drive, Ozone House has upgraded their maximum capacity and can currently hold 25 youth per night. They are always looking for volunteers and for the community to get involved in their cause, specifically for the crisis line, to listen and provide critical information to those in need. They also accept donated goods. They encourage volunteers to help advocate for public policies that improve the lives of young people or invite Ozone House staff and young people to share about key issues.

Ozone House is an extremely important resource within the Washtenaw County community that provides help to youth experiencing homelessness and instability.

What's Happening at the Ann Arbor District Library

Open 10am-8pm Daily

Hang out in any of our five locations across town, browsing books, magazines, newspapers, and more, or check out movies, CDs, art prints, musical instruments, and science tools—you name it! Study and meeting rooms, fast and free WiFi, and plenty of places to sit and hang out.

Databases at AADL

Did you know all AADL library card holders have access to databases? You can search consumer reports, genealogy, and much more! Visit AADL.org/ collections/databases

AADL Shelf Service

Place your request with our Shelf Service and let AADL know the types of things you're looking for. AADL staff will fill a bag with items we think you'll like! For more information visit AADL.org/shelfservice

FEATURED EVENT

FoolMoon

Friday, April 7 • 7-10pm
Kerrytown

FoolMoon is back with light-filled art and creative experiences in the Kerrytown district. Dress up, light the luminaries, celebrate, spread smiles, and share some love with A2 local businesses! This year's theme—U.F.O.s (Unidentified Foolish Objects)—brings arts + lights + wonder!

FoolMoon is in partnership with Assembli. All the details can be found at AADL.org/fool



Thursdays at Ozone by Saif Sarab



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me."
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

Come Worship With Us!

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm (English) & 7 pm (Spanish)
Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm

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Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper: April 6th 7pm;
Good Friday: April 7th Stations of the Cross 12pm; Veneration of the Cross 1:30pm
Easter Vigil: April 8th, 8:00pm
Easter Sunday: April 9th, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm; 2:30pm Spanish Mass (no 5pm evening Mass)

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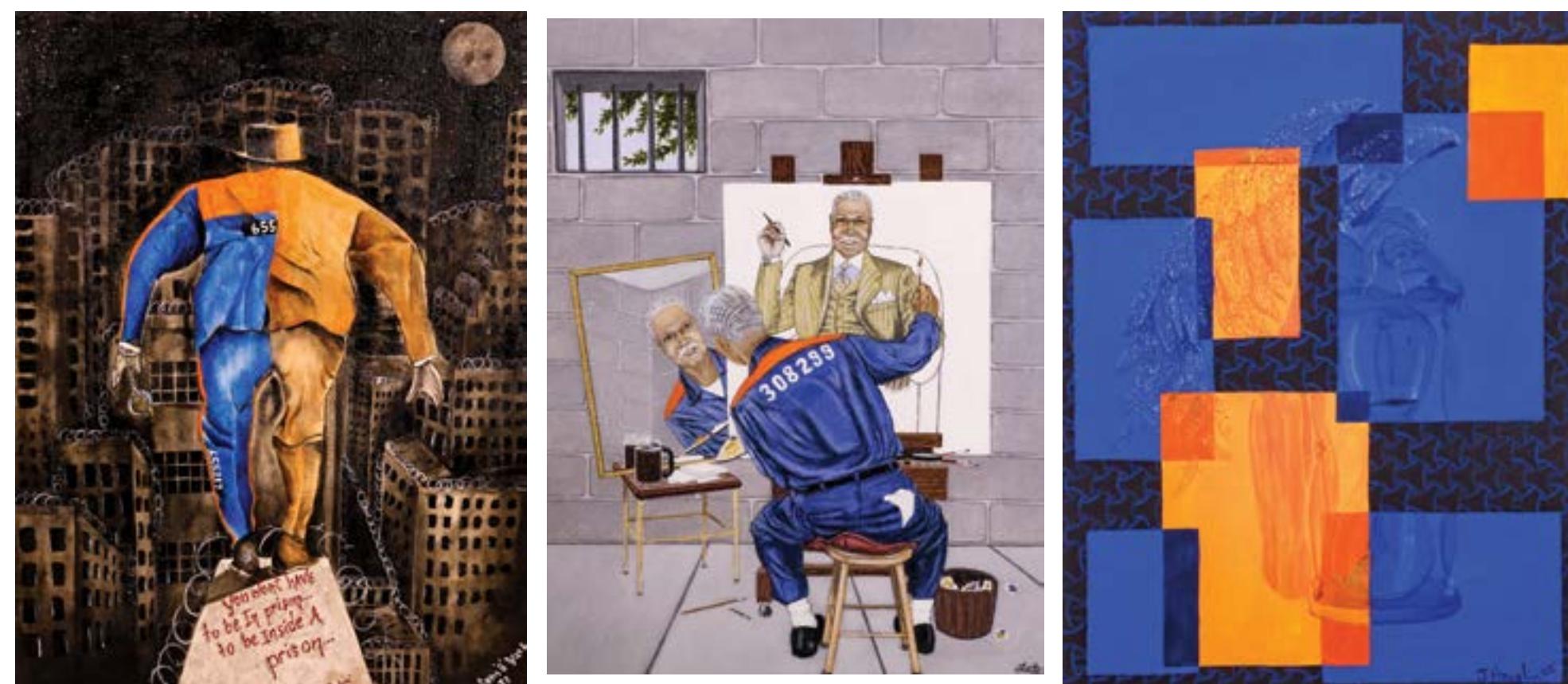
CHI **FLOWER** **DETOK** **NATURAL SLEEP**
KAVA **TINCTURE** **SEA MOSS** **NATURAL ENERGY**
KRATOM **PET TINCTURES** **PRE-ROLLS** **INSTANT PAIN RELIEF**
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SUN-TH 11am-10pm **FRI & SAT 10am-11pm**

MONTHLY VENDOR DAY! FREE SAMPLES & DAILY SPECIALS

A Healthier Life starts With You!



Left: **State of Mind** by Christopher Stark. Middle: **A tribute to Norman Rockwell, Self-Portrait** by Robert Tate. Right: **Don't Wait Until Too Late** by Jeffery Hoaglin.

U-M opens the 27th annual Exhibition of Arts in Michigan Prisons

AARON JAMES
PCAP

Three hundred and sixty unique artists inside 25 Michigan prisons are collaborating with the University of Michigan's Prison Creative Arts Project, to showcase 645 pieces of art including paintings, three-dimensional creations and drawings. The 27th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons runs March 21 through April 5 at the Duderstadt Center Gallery. This exposition is the world's largest display of its kind, where underground art meets academic exhibition.

A community of often unheard artists partnering with U-M facilitators and curators radically form what late PCAP founder and English professor Buzz Alexander called "our bridge."

Prices of art vary greatly and each artist receives their full asking price if their work sells. This reinforces that their art is an "extension of someone." Emily Chase, art therapist and PCAP's Arts Programming Coordinator said. Chase believes "art expresses something subjective about experience that quantitative research cannot."

Chase describes feelings of polarization on selection trips inside prisons meeting artists. "I feel joy in connection while my heart is breaking," she said. "Mutual change happens through that connection."

Master of Social Work student Sarah Hebert-Johnson shared that engaging

with incarcerated artists "challenges the dominant narrative of punishment."

"The deep conversations with talented people make me rethink society," she said.

For some, like artist BEE, this rethinking reminds society that, "Some people are already in prison, and they will never step a foot inside a prison." He said this about his juxtaposition-themed painting, State of Mind.

After her first selection trip inside, such liberation awareness encouraged undergraduate student Suzy Moffat to add Art and Design to her Anthropology major. She's been on 13 eye-opening trips to correctional facilities this year. "My thinking has become less cut and dry, more understanding and empathetic," Moffat said. "Art is already a medium for that. Without going in and talking [to the artists], I don't think I would have added Art and Design."

PCAP Community Engagement Specialist Sarah Unrath has worked directly with artists both presently and formerly in prison.

"It gives me goosebumps walking in the gallery, that precious arena that exudes the whole gamut of emotions of what it means to be human," Unrath said.

Unrath calls PCAP interactions authentic. "It's something you just can't shake. Whether that's through revelations that happen during



workshops and undergraduate courses, the powerful experiences of art selection trips, or the radical community of Linkage, PCAP seeps into the fibers of your being and changes the way you do life."

The exhibition is presented with support from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. It's held at the Duderstadt Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd. on U-M's North Campus in Ann Arbor. The eclectic Opening Celebration

The women of Groundcover News

LIT KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 159

Only a select group of people will ever understand life without mainstream housing. Even a smaller group will appreciate what it is like to be a woman facing this struggle.

Women have special challenges on the street. From the teen who has been abandoned by parents or freshly aged out of foster care to the elderly woman with no family, there are challenges and vulnerabilities that are unique to being a woman.

In a 2017 article, former Groundcover Human Service Director Laurie Wetcher noted that families make up half of the unhoused population and that, of those families, 90% are headed by single women. These women's lifestyles will invariably have an impact on future generations.

The women of Groundcover News and street papers around the world

know the struggles all too well. Yet despite obstacles or because of them, we are among those who have defied the odds and changed our circumstances through the entrepreneurship model this publication offers.

The women of Groundcover make up a small percentage of vendors; presently only a third of active Groundcover vendors are women. We are women who are small businesses with tax-paying responsibilities. We are the ones who face all weather conditions and frequent societal hostilities and rejections while remaining steadfast in improving ourselves in this entrepreneurial endeavor.

We are women from different ethnic backgrounds, varied age groups, different races and classes all working on a common goal. The noticeable differences of the larger world are obscured.

As a woman, I myself am proud to have been the first vendor nominated in 2016 for the Best Vendor Contribution Category at the International Street

different walks of life, our shared struggles unite us into a sisterhood that is undeniably our own.

Yet well into the 21st century we face the struggle that many women have faced throughout American history — lack of inclusion. There seems to be no accomplishment worthy of recognition by our housed peers.

For example, Kung Fu Panda is not only an artist who has faced housing insecurity, she is an artist in her own right with her own style. However, she is not present in the art galleries around our city. La Shawn Courtwright published a book of poems. Felicia Wilbert is published as well. Yet even during Women's History Month these ladies' works are not sought out and featured in any of the displays featuring women's accomplishments.

Besides selling Groundcover News, I am a writer, blogger, and am becoming a social media influencer. You can find out more about my activities at <http://litspage.com>

Paper Conference in Greece where I was one of the top five finalists. And yes, I plan to join the list of other women vendors from Groundcover who have published a book.

Still, the glaring omission of unhoused women remains an anachronism in a world and community who feel they have "dotted all i's and crossed all t's" when it comes to equity and fairness for everyone.

Increasingly, though, we are a force that is becoming more and more difficult to ignore. So, this Women's History Month I celebrate myself and all women of Groundcover News and of street papers around the world. I hope you will join in this Women's History Month to show your appreciation and help to celebrate us too.

Since joining the organization, Lit has represented Groundcover on the international stage at the INSP conference, being the first vendor from Groundcover to be a finalist in the Best Vendor Contribution competition. As a former teacher, she is passionate about helping youth who are experiencing housing instability.

Recently, she has organized and led a homeless advocacy workshop at the Ypsilanti District Library to get community members more aware of, and more involved in, the homelessness crisis.

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ARE YOU A PHOTOGRAPHER LOOKING TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Join the Groundcover News crew of volunteer photographers! Commitment can be anything from assignment-based images (for publication in the newspaper) or photography at Groundcover News events (for use on social media and Groundcover communications). If you have lived experience with homelessness there may be paid opportunities. Email contact@groundcovernews.com to learn more and sign-up for our list-serv.

THE WOMEN OF GROUNDCOVER



LIT KURTZ #159 is a writer, blogger, and social media influencer. She became associated with Groundcover as a result of being one of 4,000 teachers laid off in the school district that she worked.



BEVERLY BOSS #583 started selling Groundcover last year and has found success as an outgoing, independent saleswoman! She grew up in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.



FELICIA WILBERT #234 is a cheerful, God-loving entrepreneur. She is a mother and grandmother who has overcome many obstacles only because of the grace of God.



DENISE SHEARER #483 likes to comfort people, make people smile and laugh. Denise has been selling Groundcover since 2018. She currently both writes and illustrates cartoons for Groundcover.



AMANDA GALE #577's life is about worshipping Jesus, thriving in life for Him, for herself and for those she loves. She works for a local retailer, sells Groundcover and volunteers for various worthy causes. She loves her mom, her pet turtle Ticia, appreciates her church and prays for God's blessings.



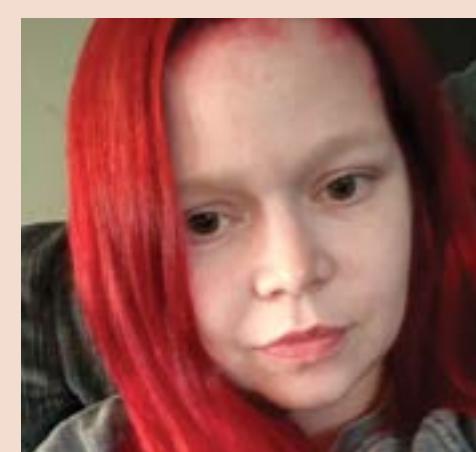
SHELLEY DENEVE #22 Shelley began selling Groundcover in the depths of the recession in 2010 to avoid eviction. She has worked steadily at Subway for years but continues to be a contributing member of the Groundcover community, writing and supplementing her income as needed.



CINDY "KUNG FU PANDA" GERE #279 is a happy-go-lucky creative artist, warm greeter of Ann Arbor and Groundcover vendor who sells at the Sweetwaters Cafe on Washington Street in downtown A2. Cindy writes a column for the newspaper where she interviews low income and homeless artists in the Ann Arbor and Ypsi area. Her work is on display at the Groundcover News office in addition to Journey of Faith Church's Art on a Journey gallery.



LA SHAWN COURTWRIGHT #56 is a Groundcover vendor and writer. Although many readers know her for her fierce poetry, La Shawn has recently written freelance reporting assignments for Groundcover News. La Shawn has a book of poetry published entitled "The Fold: a Collection of Poetry." She says, "this collection of poetry speaks to a very common theme of real human experiences, and they are just a small part of mine ... For anyone who has had to experience incarceration for any amount of time can understand where I'm coming from in two of these poems."



TABITHA LUDWIG #360 has been selling Groundcover since 2016. She is currently expecting her fifth child, a baby girl whose due date is in July of this year. In her free time she enjoys watching movies and reading.

Gebrannte Mandeln

MAYA STROHBAND
Groundcover contributor

This tasty treat is frequently found at German Christmas markets. The smell alone makes any kitchen feel like a winter wonderland! These candied almonds take approximately 25 minutes to prepare and only use six simple ingredients.

Ingredients:

1 cup (~8 oz) of almonds
1 cup of cane sugar
1/3 cup of water
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste
1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt

Directions:

Add the water, sugar, salt, vanilla extract or bean paste, and cinnamon into a non-stick pan.

Bring to a boil until the sugar is fully dissolved. Stir occasionally to prevent burning.

Add the almonds and reduce heat to medium-high when sugar is fully dissolved.



Be sure to stir the almonds frequently for the next 20 minutes.

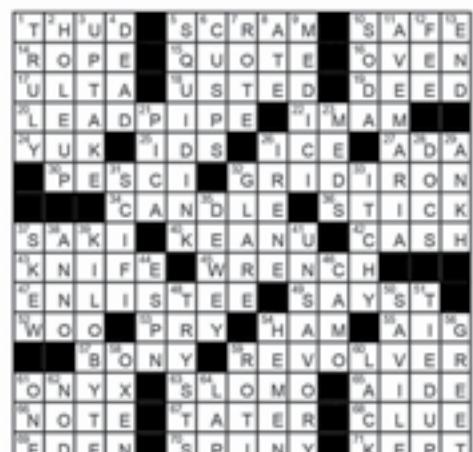
The sugar will crystallize after approximately 20 minutes and return to a dry state. Don't worry! This is supposed to happen. Reduce heat to medium and continue stirring. The sugar will dissolve again and thickly coat the almonds.

Once the crystallized sugar has fully dissolved and coated the almonds, spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and let cool. They will be very hot!

Let cool down completely and enjoy!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

8	9	4	5	6	7	1	3	2
2	7	3	8	1	9	6	4	5
6	1	5	2	3	4	9	7	8
9	5	7	3	4	1	8	2	6
4	8	1	6	9	2	7	5	3
3	6	2	7	5	8	4	9	1
1	2	6	4	7	3	5	8	9
7	3	9	1	8	5	2	6	4
5	4	8	9	2	6	3	1	7



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Christ in All, Communion for All, Connecting with All



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CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

We seek to...

follow Jesus

respect all people

honor questions

be real

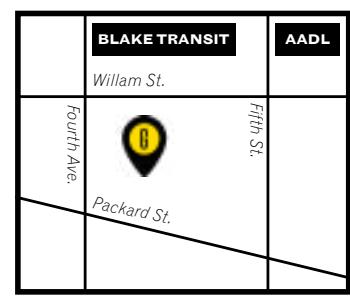
nurture community

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